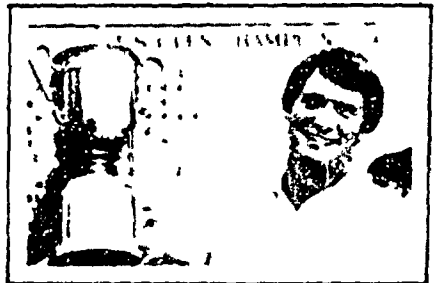


Missourian SportsWeek

Open sesame

Chen's 8 opens door
for North. See Page 3B.



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Good Morning! It's Monday, June 17, 1985

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TWA hijackers holding 30 Americans

Talks begin for release of hostages

New York Times

The hijackers of a Trans World Airlines jetliner forced it Sunday to fly for a third time to Beirut, Lebanon, where negotiations began on the release of more than 30 hostages on the plane and up to a dozen more who had been spirited away to an unknown location outside the plane.

Nabih Berr, the leader of Beirut's main Shiite Moslem militia, Amal, said he was trying to negotiate a Red Cross airlift of 700 Shiite Moslem prisoners from northern Israel to Damascus, Syria. The release would meet the hijackers' principal demand.

Israeli sources said Israel would not negotiate with the hijackers for the release of the 700, who were imprisoned after its invasion of Lebanon in 1982, but that it would consider a U.S. request to free them. Officials said the release of the prisoners had been planned before the hijacking as a measure to improve relations with Shiite Moslems in the south of Lebanon.

As a result of the deepening crisis, President Reagan Sunday morning cut short a weekend stay at Camp David in Maryland and returned to the White House. There he made a statement to reporters that contained an implicit warning to the hijackers: "that for their own safety, they'd better turn these people loose."

"There have been instances when hijackers have found action is taken that resulted in their death or capture," Reagan said, although he refused to say whether any military forays against the hijackers was being contemplated. There have been reports that elements of a U.S. commando unit called Delta Force left their base at Fort Bragg, N.C., Saturday for a destination in the Mediterranean area.

The peril to those who have not been released seemed to mount with reports that six to 12 passengers had been separated from the others and spirited to an unknown location. Passengers released in Algiers told reporters that a half-dozen men with military or diplomatic identifications or names that sounded Jewish were pulled off the plane on the second stop in Beirut.

Sunday evening, Uli Derickson, the pursuer on the flight, told reporters after returning to New York that "about six or seven passengers were removed from the flight because they have Jewish-sounding surnames." The hijackers, she said, determined this by looking at the passengers' passports.

As diplomatic moves to free those being held reportedly proceeded, the hijackers issued what they said was a letter signed by 32 of their hostages appealing to Reagan to avoid a military rescue and convince Israel to release the Shiite Moslem prisoners.

"We implore you not to take any direct military action on our behalf," said the letter, broadcast over the state-run radio in Beirut. "Please negotiate quickly our immediate release by convincing the Israelis to release the 800 Lebanese prisoners as re-



UPI Telephoto

Parishioners at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Algonquin, Ill., pray for church members aboard the TWA airliner.

quested now."

The letter was made public on the third day of a tense hijacking that has forced the Boeing 727 jet to make three flights to Beirut and two to Algiers and has involved the leaders of several world governments. The letter, which was shown to reporters, was signed by 32 American passengers. The text said the letter had not been written under duress.

As night fell in Beirut, large numbers of Shiite militiamen fanned out along the southern stretch of the Beirut coastline near the airport and lit up the sky with flares.

A few minutes before, a man speaking from the airport tower told the hijackers that Israeli helicopters and warships were headed from the south toward the airport. He told the hijackers that they should be on the alert and that maybe they should consider refueling and leaving the airport promptly.

A hijacker who called himself "Abu Abed" asked for floodlights to be directed on

the airport runways and for gunmen to take up positions between the hijacked jet and the sea to protect against possible attacks.

The plane, TWA Flight 847, touched down in Beirut for the third time at 2:50 p.m. (6:50 a.m., CDT) Sunday after a 1,900-mile flight from Algiers. David C. Venz, a spokesman for TWA in New York, said it was carrying about 30 passengers, perhaps 12 hijackers and the three crew members who have flown the plane more than 8,300 miles during the ordeal.

Air controllers, as they had done on an earlier stop in Beirut, at first refused the plane permission to land, an order that had been given by Walid Jumblatt, Lebanon's transport minister and the leader of the country's Druze. But the controllers relented when the pilot, John L. Testrake of Richmond, Mo., told them he had fuel for only 20 minutes of flying time.

As the plane was taxiing on the runway, a vessel believed to be an Israeli gunboat was sighted off the Lebanese coast.

Passenger: hijack is expert

New York Times

PARIS — A 62-year-old man who was released from the hijacked Trans World Airlines jetliner on Saturday said Sunday that the two terrorists who originally commandeered the plane "had to be hijacking experts."

The man, Bill Cocoris, the owner of a restaurant in Boston, told reporters Sunday night that the hijackers appeared skilled and that they acted as if they had experience in seizing an aircraft.

"It would have had to have taken a well-trained person," Cocoris said. He spoke to reporters here in guarded terms. He was one of a group of about 60 passengers who were flown to Paris Sunday after their release by the hijackers.

Cocoris calculated that he had spent 36

hours on the plane before his release in Algiers about 6 p.m. Saturday.

He described the pilot and the co-pilot of the plane as tired. "They were stretched out in the first-class compartment in Algiers, so I think they got away from the controls for six to eight hours," he said.

Cocoris insisted he had not seen anyone beaten. He also said he had not heard shots and had no knowledge of any passenger being killed by the terrorists.

He said he was asked no other questions except one concerning his age.

Cocoris, in reply to a question about whether anyone tried to resist the hijackers, said "There were no heroes."

He blamed lax security at the Athens airport for allowing the plane to have been taken over.

Local legislators

Playing piggyback in state legislature

By Nira Kaplan and Deborah Simon
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — "This session I've sure learned how to get a bill passed," Columbia Rep. Ken Jacob said two weeks before the 1985 General Assembly adjourned.

It's a surprising statement for a man who saw every bill he sponsored die in the 1985 legislative session.

But Jacob had mastered the art of "piggybacking" his ideas onto other legislators' bills. As a result, Jacob left the session with a 50 percent victory record.

Half the bills he had sponsored were passed as amendments to other bills.

It's a technique all three of Co-

lumbia's legislators used successfully. Rep. Chris Kelly got only two of his 13 bills passed. But by piggybacking, he got two more of his issues on the governor's desk — for a 31 percent success rate.

Jacob successfully amended anti-crime legislation to include his bill to require persons convicted of possession of small quantities of marijuana to attend counseling sessions.

Jacob, who recently resigned as executive director of Columbia's Front Door youth-counseling center, said the average age of pot smokers is 19.

He tacked on to another bill his proposal to allow courts to hold emergency hearings when parents refuse potentially life-saving medical treatment for their child.

When Kelly's bill to recognize the Northern Cherokee Indians as a tribe died in a Senate committee, Columbia Sen. Roger Wilson revived it by adding it to another piece of legislation that barely beat the session's midnight deadline for passage.

In the Senate, the smaller membership — 34 compared to 163 in the House — makes it easier for senators to get their bills passed. Wilson got four of his 12 bills passed and another two tacked on to other bills.

One of Wilson's bills actually belonged to Jacob. At Jacob's request, Wilson sponsored a Senate bill to allow Boone County to lower speed limits on state roads within the county.

Jacob asked Wilson to sponsor the bill because he had missed the House deadline for filing legislation.

The bill was prompted by a fatal accident on Stadium Boulevard and a serious one near Hayden House

on U.S. 63 North.

All three lawmakers made education a priority.

Wilson's "Excellence in Education Act" was replaced with a similar House bill containing many of Wilson's proposals that cleared the legislature.

The act, signed into law last month, raised the minimum teachers' salary and established a merit system to reward innovative teaching.

It also contains a provision written by Jacob that allows some kindergarten students to begin school early based on readiness assessment.

Jacob's bill for a state-funded needy student employment program died in the legislature, but an identical Senate bill that Jacob handled in the House was sent to the governor.

Kelly focused on the financial aspects of higher education. With his new position as vice chairman of the House Budget Committee, Kelly helped the University receive its biggest budget increase in more than a decade. Education was not

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Ashcroft

Governor sees solid successes

By Andy Scott
State capital bureau

JEFFERSON CITY — By all accounts, this year's legislative session was as successful and productive as any in recent memory. It has made Gov. John Ashcroft very happy.

Other than a few disappointments, the legislative agenda outlined by the governor earlier this year enjoyed remarkable success, with many of his bills getting passed in the closing hours of the session.

Out of 24 pieces of legislation the governor had requested, the legis-

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lature managed to pass 14 by the closing bell.

House Speaker Bob Griffin attributed Ashcroft's success to the fact that the governor attached himself to the Democrats' program. "I don't think he had a real opportunity to develop a full agenda."

Griffin credited the Democratic leadership in the House and Senate for this year's legislative successes. He said Ashcroft could have been more helpful if he had exercised more control with the Republican members of the House.

Griffin gave the legislature an "A" for its efforts, "because I was a part of it," he said.

John Scott, president pro tem of the Senate, was taking his share of the credit, even before the Senate adjourned Saturday night.

Scott said the legislature was so

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